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LOBSTERS ANYONE?

There was anger when the Department of Fisheries and Oceans flexed its muscle recently in Burnt Church. I think everyone has seen the pictures of the two Native-owned boats being sunk by the much bigger DFO boat. It looked like the running over of one boat was deliberate. "People could have been killed," said one man. Ovide Mecredi said it was a display of "unreasonable force."

The DFO in rebuttal says it has a responsibility to uphold the law, no matter what.

Nice words to kill by. Nice words to justify. Nice words to soothe a conscience by if something goes wrong. After all they were just upholding the law by endangering lives. Andre Marc Lanteigne, DFO spokesperson said "Law enforcement is never pretty. That's what it boils down to."

Guess it all depends on what side of the fence you're sitting on. I know the Native fishermen who threw rocks were arrested. Guess Canadian justice triumphs once again.

The lobster war has heated up yet again. It's all about rights; Ottawa's right to regulate or the native right of access to the fishery for a moderate livelihood. Which one is the stronger right? Ottawa is merely playing media opinion and using might to push its own position.

Public pressure seen a new precedent from Canada's highest court. They actually came out with a 32 page document and said "The court did not hold that the Mi'kmaq treaty right cannot be regulated or that the Mi'kmaq are guaranteed an open season in the fisheries." In regards to conservation practices the explanation said the responsibility is "squarely on the minister responsible and not on the aboriginal or non-aboriginal users of the resource."

Meanwhile Native supporters from across the

country are joining in. About 30 Tyendinaga Mohawks blocked off a major commuter bridge to support New Brunswick natives in their battle with Ottawa over lobster quotas. "This is in support of the Miramichi, Burnt Church, all because these people want to feed their families," said Harold Brant, one of the native protesters at the blockade. At 6 a.m. a driver rammed the barricade with his vehicle, nearly striking three protesters and a provincial police officer. No charges were laid. Is any body surprised?

First Nations leaders let out a war cry for direct action during a protest in Kamloops, B.C. There was a call for future blockades. The protesters carried placards denouncing the incident near Burnt Church, and they chanted "Dhaliwal's got to go," calling on Herb Dhaliwal, the federal fisheries minister, to resign. "We cannot stand idly by and allow this brutality to be perpetrated against our people," said Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs.

It was apparent that people were willing to become active and confrontational. Burnt Church has the makings of another OKA, but one that could spread across the country. The governments seem to have learnt nothing from what happened back then.

In the words of Pierre Kruger, a councilor from the Penticton band in B.C.. "We're at the point where we don't care what we do. We will start to inconvenience you Canadians. You have to realize it's your government that has inconvenienced our people, our aboriginal rights, our title ... Do you expect us to turn the other cheek?"

Indeed the days when you could expect Natives to always turn the other cheek seem to be over but the governments don't seem to realize that yet and therein lies the problem.

by William Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Matthew's Homecoming

Photographer: Will Nicholls

Cover Design: MONA LAVIOLETTE

True stories :

Well, here's a version of rez notes from Val d'Or, the transient paradise of the Mid-North. This time its about real stories and real people who lived thorough and survived another softball tourney in the heart of Partyland.

Once Upon a VLT...

There's this guy, you see, who happened to have a winning streak of sevens and hidden treasures while playing those infernal VLTs. He started with little money and ended up winning in a big way, then made his way back home, a mere 1000 km away. Upon arriving at his home town, he realized his streak wasn't over and headed back in the wee early hours of the morning. Eight hours later, he was back to his favorite passion and betting big. Many hundreds of dollars later of good luck, he disappeared for the night. We found him in a very relaxed state the next afternoon and somehow, revived his passion for the big win. We cajoled and coaxed him back to his room, and on the verge of giving in for the day, he took off again. We called out to him 'Hey Man! Where you goin'?'

He answers with his last breath ... Machines...

Shades of Bart Simpson

I heard a good one during the final games of the first softball tourney of this millenium. The announcer (an unidentified woman), calling out the score and batter ups on a public P.A. system often had to announce personal messages such as , would the person with the suburban please park off the sidewalk,.. or... please do not leave your melting icecream cones on the seats.... Somehow announced out to the shocked fans and players.. Would Mike Hunt please come to the front, come

to the front please....

Goodyear sales go up

This tourney, a record number of beer bottles were broken outside the number one drinking establishment, causing numerous small punctures for those unfortunate enough to drive by.

Births go up...

One thing for sure, the number of child births are increasing, at least in Val d'Or. I stayed at the fine resting place for CBHSSJB patients and witnessed the steady flow of pregnant women who some how disappeared then showing up again with their bundle of joys. Five was the last count with at least four more to pop up in the coming week or so. It was a good year in more ways than one for many happy couples and congratulations to all. Maybe one day, all children will be born here; I say we make a birthing center somewhere in tax free land.

Tiger wannabees

The sport of golf is more popular than ever thanks to Tiger Woods and his record breaking swings and double digit under pars. I went to the driving range only to find out that 200 yards is pretty far (for me anyway). I wanna be like Tiger Woods one day, play all day and make millions in moolah. This time, I'll remember to wear gloves, since my skin was tearing right off my hand. Great Whalers play when the clouds are high enough to see the next flag and maybe the next tiger will come from the north. Speaking of Tigers , Giant tiger hit off with a big bang on 3rd Ave in Val d'Or, causing near panic shopping rushes for those low in the bank account.

Fights go down

All in good sport, not too many people sporting shiners this year...

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Washipabano scores in shoot-out

In a nailbiting shoot-out in the final game, Charly Washipabano of Chisasibi scored the winning goal to help power Team Indigenous to an impressive 4-2 game record in its first-ever outing in Tampere, Finland.

"I was very nervous at first when coach (Ted) Nolan called on me," said Washipabano in an interview with the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal on getting back.

"But when I picked up the puck at the red line, it was just me and the goalie. When the puck hit the back of the net I was so proud. It was a big goal for me and a great victory for the program."

At the end of the second period, Team Indigenous was behind 2-0 against host team Universal Players.

Refusing to give up, they managed to tie the game 2-2 with five minutes left.

The game had to be decided by a shoot-out.

Each team took five shots, but the lone scorer in the shoot-out was Washipabano.

"The boys made history there. It was extraordinary," said proud mother Dolores Washipabano.

"They proved they were able to compete at an international level after only four or five practices," she said.

Team Indigenous's 4-2 record placed them fifth of 12 teams competing at the Universal Players Hockey Tournament, held from August 4 to 11.

Teams came from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany and the U.S. Team Indigenous was the only Canadian squad.

The team was created by 1997 NHL Coach of the Year and former Red Wing Ted Nolan, who is also the head coach.

Nolan hopes the team will be the centre-piece of a national Aboriginal youth hockey program. He also wants to create a girls' hockey program and national Bantam and Midget championships.



Chisasibi's Charly Washipabano with Team Indigenous. (He's in the back row, third from the left.)

CONTROVERSY MIGHT SHUT DOWN NUSKAN

The Waskaganish band council is thinking about closing down its profitable construction firm Nuskan LP after questions have been raised about possible conflict-of-interest and accountability.

The surprise move stems from concerns that the band has little control over Nuskan's operations and isn't kept up-to-date on the company.

The band owns 51 percent of Nuskan; the rest is owned by a Montreal construction firm, Alta Limited.

There are also concerns that Nuskan president Billy Diamond, the community's former chief, has gotten involved in another company with Alta Ltd. on the side.

This new company, Diamond-Alta, is a joint venture of Alta Ltd. and Diamond Holdings, which is owned by Billy Diamond and members of his family.

Diamond Holdings owns 51 percent of Diamond-Alta.

In June, Diamond-Alta bid for its first-ever construction project, a \$7.9-million contract for an 800-metre bridge in the vicinity of Listiguj, New Brunswick.

Diamond-Alta successfully beat out the other bidders, which included the Cree Construction Company.

Diamond-Alta's bid was announced with great fanfare by federal Public Works Minister Alfonso Gagliano. "I am delighted to announce this contract award to Diamond-Alta," he said.

"This is the largest construction contract ever awarded under the Aboriginal Set-Aside Program in the Atlantic region," the minister said in a statement.

Some Crees are concerned

about the lost contract and also the potential for conflict-of-interest.

"There is a potential conflict-of-interest when we have a joint venture with a company and then he (Diamond) turns around and sets up another company with the same company," said Gordon Blueboy, a Waskaganish band council member.

"It was a surprise to me when I read the press release on the awarding of the contract. That's why we have questions about Nuskan itself."

Another band official who requested anonymity agreed: "I think it's a potential conflict-of-interest. A lot of people are asking how this could be possible."

Community members are also concerned that Alta Ltd., the band's outside partner, has too much control over Nuskan, Blueboy said.

"Most of the Waskaganish people don't really know who Nuskan is. We don't really have a say in the company. Our people are not really involved," he said.

Blueboy said some band personnel were not aware that they were members of Nuskan's board of directors.

The band council discussed what to do with Nuskan at its last meeting. One of the ideas was withdrawing from the joint venture, said Blueboy. No decisions have been made yet.

Diamond doesn't receive a salary as president of Nuskan, a position he has held since before he was chief.

Diamond declined to run again for chief last summer after questions about the band's mounting debt and financial mismanagement.

by Alex Roslin

see QUESTIONS, page 9

Change in Season

By : **JULIAN BLACKSMITH(00-08-16)**

Life changes and never is the same
Faces we meet they stay the same
They only change through-out the years
For they've known joy and shed some tears.

In autumn, leaves fall on nature's floor
A cool breeze swifts by like the years before.
Images of you and me I see in beautiful colors.
The colors of fall highlights the beauty of mother.

The winter snow now covers the colored bed
Where once a flower grew blossomy red
Northern lights dance and cold winds blow every now and then
I've searched for you in a blizzard, where were you then?

New gifts are given in early spring
Like many creatures give birth to their new offspring.
Flowers will begin to grow, coloring nature splendidly
Then robins will begin to sing a summer song for you and me

Hot is the sun that burns my eyes
As the waters shine like crystal ice
From afar, a thunderstorm is coming and is raging
Summer time is the season of new stories to bring

Season are full of changes
Fullfilled with mystery and beauty
They are colored and in white
Our lives are like seasons as we say good-bye

AUTUMN: THE BEAUTY OF MY MOTHER

WINTER: I FELT COLD AND I WAS LOOKING FOR THE WARMTH OF YOUR LOVING HEART AND IT IS A TIME OF HARDSHIP

SPRING: NEW LIFE USUALLY BEGINS, NEW FACES WE MEET, BIRDS SING AND SO ON.

SUMMER: A TIME OF GATHERING, A TIME OF SHARING NEW STORIES THAT WE BRING FROM AFAR, IT IS ALSO A TIME WHERE THUNDER OR A RAGING STORM COVERS YOU, MEANING THAT YOU SOMETIMES FACE HARD TIMES.

SEASONS: THEY CHANGE, OUR LIVES ARE LIKE SEASONS, WE CHANGE IN TIME.AND WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO THEM SEASONS.



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When ex-cops go bad

A sleepy street in the Montreal suburb of Châteauguay was the last place police expected to find the mastermind of the biggest drug-smuggling ring ever to hit northern Quebec.

But that's exactly where ex-Mountie Michel Leblanc quietly made his headquarters for a thriving business of smuggling hash and cocaine into the Inuit communities of northern Quebec and Nunavut.

When he was arrested in May, Leblanc was making an estimated \$1.5 million in profit a year in drug sales. That didn't include the regular cut he gave his sponsors, the Hells Angels.

Leblanc, 51, a former RCMP undercover narcotics officer, pled guilty to four counts of possession and trafficking of hash and coke, and was sentenced to six years in prison in July.

Michel Leblanc is just the latest ex-cop in Quebec to trip across the thin blue line and wind up being hunted by his former colleagues in uniform.

Crooked ex-cops are emerging as one of Quebec's fastest-growing and most colourful occupational groups.

Criminologists say their rise reflects a dramatic growth in police corruption across North America fueled by the war on drugs. They say crooked ex-cops are like a mirror held up to corruption inside police stations.

One of the most notorious to hit Quebec is former Montreal police officer Guy Lepage. He was the founding president of the Rockers, a Montreal biker gang personally godfathered by Angels boss Maurice "Mom" Boucher. The Rockers are the frontline

shocktroops in the Hells' six-year war against the Rock Machine biker gang for control of the city's drug trade. The conflict is the world's most violent and longest-running biker war.

Convicted of laundering drug profits in 1994, today Lepage is said to be one of Mom Boucher's most trusted companions, serving as his bodyguard and chauffeur.

Leblanc and Lepage are just two of the 49 ex-cops arrested in Quebec since 1991 on charges ranging from armed robbery, drug trafficking, conjugal violence and sexual abuse of children to murder.

The number of crooked ex-cops is going up, and they are increasingly using their taxpayer-funded training and experience in the service of organized crime.

Between 1991 and 1995, 20 ex-cops were arrested in Quebec. The figure was 29 between 1996 and 2000, an increase of almost 50 percent.

Four ex-cops faced organized-crime-related charges in the first half of the '90s. The number was seven in the second half of the decade, an increase of 75 percent.

Police say ex-cops can be a big help to organized crime groups, with their knowledge of police techniques, identities of undercover officers and informants, and their police contacts.

The case of Michel Leblanc, head of the northern Quebec drug ring, shows how much trouble dirty ex-cops can be.

SQ Cpl. Alain De Bonville, the investigator who collared Leblanc, said the ex-Mountie "was very, very careful in his way of doing business." Many of his dealers

up north never saw him in per-

by Alex Roslin

see DRUG WAR, page 9

Fisheries attacks

Fisheries vessels apparently have sunk two Mi'kmaq boats in violent confrontations near the Burnt Church First Nation, in New Brunswick.

Video footage shows federal boats ramming at least one smaller boat and spilling three Native fishermen into the bay, according to one report.

Federal fisheries boats were out picking up what they call illegal lobster traps. The Native fishermen tried to block the government agents, leading to the confrontation.

A federal spokesman called the incident "a nightmare" from a public-relations standpoint, and said conditions are "extremely tense out there."

Mi'kmaq officials say they are exercising their treaty right to fish for lobster. The government insists that it is merely regulating the catch for conservation purposes.

"I would condemn any group, Native or non-Native, who would take the law into their own hands," Fisheries Minister Herb Dhaliwal told a reporter.

But the First Nation retorts that the Fisheries Department stood idly by for decades letting commercial fishers overharvest the region's cod and other sea creatures.

They say it is ironic that Fisheries is putting so much effort now into stopping a few dozen Mi'kmaq from pursuing their recognized treaty rights.

The Mi'kmaq are calling on other First Nations and Canadians to support their cause. They need help buying boats, traps, food, clothes, video or still cameras and money for gas.

As an added insult, they say the Scalping Proclamation of 1756 is still in effect. It says anyone can legally scalp a Mi'kmaq and claim a reward.

The Nova Scotia government has apparently asked Ottawa to confirm that the 1756 proclamation by then-governor William Lawrence no longer has any force.

Fontaine to run for Libs?

Phil Fontaine admits he's thinking about running for the Liberals in a Manitoba riding in the next election.

see BRIEFS, page 9

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Drug war "hopeless" _

continued from page 7

son and didn't even know his name. Some simply knew him as "Mike."

Police arrested 50 lower-level members of Leblanc's drug ring in 1998 and 1999, but the hash and coke kept flooding north. None of those arrested identified the man in charge, and police still didn't know they were hunting an ex-Mountie.

The big break for police came when they stumbled on Leblanc's Châteauguay address written on a package during one of the arrests. By May, when he was finally nabbed, Leblanc's monthly profit had soared to an estimated \$300,000.

Mark Murphy, a retired 25-year RCMP organized-crime investigator, said a dirty ex-cop has a big advantage over run-of-the-mill criminals.

"He would be able to pick out surveillance vehicles very easily. He might even have ways of checking out who's working on whom. The connections would still be there. It would be a little bit scary. I would not want to see that in any shape or form," said Murphy, who was the RCMP handler of Cecil Kirby, one of Canada's most important biker informants.

"It's always very preoccupying," agreed MUC police Commander François Bingras, head of the province's police biker task force. "We have to take measures to counter it. It is a problem."

The rise in dirty ex-cops in Quebec mirrors an explosion in police corruption south of the border caused by the war on drugs. A 1998 FBI-led study found that the number of known U.S. law enforcement officers in prison increased fivefold in four years, from 107 in 1994 to 548 in 1998.

Joseph McNamara, a former police chief in San José, Texas, calls policing of drug trafficking "impossible."

"The sheer hopelessness of the task has led many officers to rationalize their own corruption," he wrote in a recent article.

As police salaries go up, cops are less willing to take a risk on petty corruption, like accepting a bribe to drop a traffic ticket. Instead, they are now attracted to the vast pools of money in the drug trade, said Frédéric Lemieux, a University of Montreal doctoral student in criminology.

In a study, Lemieux found seven of 12 recent police corruption cases in Quebec involved cops pocketing over \$50,000, with one case involving \$2.8 million.

"More and more, the petty corruption has stopped or slowed. We're increasingly seeing a ferocious corruption," he said.



Briefs...

continued from page 7

The Liberals have apparently been courting the former AFN national chief, but Fontaine still isn't sure. He is known to have strong Liberal loyalties.

Native population up

The Native American and Alaska Native population is going up, way up.

The numbers increased 15.5 percent to 2.3 million from 1990 to 1999, according to

estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau last week.

The Asian and Pacific Islander population increased by 43 percent to 10.8 million, and the Hispanic population increased 38.8 percent to 31.3 million.

Nauas still there

An indigenous nation thought to have been wiped out by war and slavery 100 years ago is doing just fine deep in Brazil's Amazon jungle. Some 250 Nauas were recently found living as rubber tappers and hunters.

Questions of conflict-of-interest...

continued from page 5

This past summer, a proposal was made for Diamond to receive a salary for being Nuskan's president, but this was rejected at a community general assembly.

Diamond didn't return calls to his home or cell phone. An Alta Ltd. official wouldn't answer questions.

Harold Pohoresky, a lawyer who has worked with Diamond, also refused to comment, referring all questions to Diamond, then abruptly hanging up.

Cree Co. chairman Jack Blacksmith said he is satisfied that nothing improper was done in the Listiguj bridge contract, and that Diamond-Alta really does qualify under the Aboriginal Set-Aside

Program, which is reserved for Native-owned companies.

Blacksmith acknowledged he is disappointed Cree Construction didn't win the bid: "We're always disappointed we don't get those contracts we would like to get, but that's the industry."

Cree Construction president Steven Bearskin didn't return a phone call.

Ironically, the idea of closing Nuskan comes at a time of business success for the company. It has finished a contract worth about \$10 million to build 30 kilometres of the Waskaganish highway.

Until the current controversy, Nuskan was also a contender along with Cree Construction to get a piece of phase three of the highway project, worth about \$7 million.

Last February, Nuskan declared a \$400,000 dividend, half of which went to the band, said a source. In April, it declared another dividend of \$250,000.

G ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2000

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— WILLIAM NICHOLLS —

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Quebec, move on over, the Crees are coming and they are talking self-governance and self-determination. That was the hot topic at the grand Council of the Crees/ Cree Regional Authority Annual General Assembly. Perhaps Quebec should have seen the warning signs in 1995 when the Crees preempted Quebec's sovereignty referendum with their own. The Crees decided they would prefer not to join the PQ in their journey into self-determination.

It won't be something that the Crees are going to rush into but they are definitely starting to look seriously at how they can take back control of Eeyou Istchee. "We want to do this alone," said Deputy Grand Chief Matthew Mukash. Mukash says Crees want to determine what structures they'll need as well as looking at the impacts of development of aboriginal peoples. Mukash said Crees were aware of the disappearing languages and socio-cultural traditions as well as the constant erosion of land bases for aboriginal peoples. "We have to put a stop to that. If we [Crees] don't stand up now, we're going to end up like all the other First Nations in the south," said Mukash.

Mukash justifies the Crees position saying there are over 300 unfulfilled obligations and breaches to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. He points out to the replacing of Judge Croteau as increasing the momentum towards Cree self-determination. Mukash said the denial of Cree rights in this



manner shows the system is flawed and non-supportive of Crees. But it was a situation that was fundamentally flawed from the beginning according to Mukash. He said the extinguishments clause in the JBNQA lead to a loss of control for the Crees, which in turn led to the Feds and Quebec not fulfilling or breaching the JBNQA but that this leads to Cree justification for Cree sovereignty. A sovereignty that Mukash says could lead to a third order of government. "We're looking at a nation to nation treaty. We'll be a part of the United Nations," said Mukash.

Some of the things that were considered by the working groups were the threat of Quebec exercising "effective control" over Eeyou Istchee. Mukash feels this can be



countered by a worldwide awareness campaign. "Any form of violence against the Crees would only show what Quebec is capable of if they separate from Canada," said Mukash. He said that the Crees want powers similar to the state similar to the situation that Porto Rico is in. Porto Rico is a dependent state under the United States protection.

To finance this new state Mukash is looking at the Crees taxing developers. He said at the moment the Crees don't even see two per cent of that. "We want the maximum share we can get so the territory is less dependent on government handouts and we'll have the money to take on the new responsibilities we'll be assuming," stated Mukash. Mukash seen the biggest obstacle as being the Crees themselves. "It might be that some people are comfortable

with the present system because they have big salaries or are in positions they want to keep. The next will be the government who will want to take control of the process or the new structure," said Mukash.

Mukash said that people are excited and that people have said since the beginning that Crees should take back control of our destiny. A series of public consultations will be taking place in the coming year.

Another highpoint of the AGA was the feast to honour Matthew Coon Come. The outpouring of pride and support was unreal. The local arena where the feast was held erupted into cheering upon his entry. Numerous speeches were given and then the man himself was on stage. Coon Come said that it was a special homecoming for

him. He talked about how he was born. "It was 1956 and we were on a dogsled halfway to Mistissini when my mother started," he said. Coon Come told of how his father ran ahead and had barely gotten the tent up when his mother arrived. He said that his grandmother had said that she never felt this way before. "He's going to be a leader," grandmother Coon Come said.

Matthew told the audience that it was lucky that he didn't know about that before or it might have gone to his head, while people laughed. He thanked his family and supporters.

Then he talked about the past. "There was a time in our history when we were made ashamed to be an Indian. I thank the Elders who weren't ashamed to speak the language, live the life and culture and passed it on," he said.

It was time for the presents after a while. Matthew received a beaver pelt in the frame with the logos of all the nine communities on it along with a picture. Four men carried out what looked like a body wrapped in a red blanket. It was a polar bear rug. The community of Mistissini gave Matthew a log cabin to be built in the Mistissini area where he wanted. His family gave a nice moose hide vest.

Even Hydro-Quebec got into the act. As Real Cousours, the HQ representative was coming up the stairs Albert Diamond asked him if his gift was a hundred light bulbs. Alas, it was a sculpture of an owl. Cree music fans got to see some great Cree artists in action. Up front and returning later in evening was the ever-popular

Francine Weistchee. She was followed by Angelina Brien, Richard Bosum, Matthew Iseroff, Emily B. Diamond, Claudette and Patrick Estelle and Kenny Mianscum. Then there was hilarious skit by James Jonah and Queeny Steven. These two comedians had people in stitches. I don't think I've ever heard so much continuous laughter in all my life.

I thought I had seen everything there was to see but learnt I hadn't. I feel I owe it to all you readers to report that Elvis is alive and he performed for Matthew. Women were screaming and throwing themselves at him. I was shocked and a little jealous but wouldn't want to have to perform with four bodyguards around me at all times. Guess I'll have to pass.

It was a great evening. The event was well planned and the setting beautiful.

The following are drafts of resolutions. I've taken out the standard "adopting the agenda" type of resolutions and left in the interesting ones. For resolution 25 see the Grand Council's advertisement on page 18, it's a great one.

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-08

SUBJECT: Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute

WHEREAS for many years the Cree People have sought to preserve Cree culture, language and traditional knowledge, and to support the role of Elders in passing on such culture, language and knowledge to youth;

WHEREAS the members recognize a need to create a Cree entity to organize and coordinate the setting of cultural and language policies and to represent Cree efforts to gain access to certain sources of provincial and federal funds;

WHEREAS the number of entities involved in Cree language and culture development has created confusion among the entities themselves about mandates and where the ultimate responsibility for the setting of cultural and language policies lies, and this profusion of Cree entities and unclear mandates has created problems in gaining access to certain sources of provincial and federal funds;

WHEREAS the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute has been established to provide a permanent facility to coordinate the delivery of cultural and language programs for all Crees, to support local cultural initiatives, and to facilitate the involvement of Elders in all aspects of Cree culture;

WHEREAS the Aanischaaukamikw

Cultural Institute has been incorporated and is currently functioning with an interim Board of Directors and must next establish a formal Board of Directors; HEREAS Native Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal has been hired to design the Aanischaaukamikw building, and construction of the facility is scheduled to begin spring 2001, and such construction will require the active participation and support of the Institute's formal Board of Directors;

WHEREAS detailed program planning for the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute will soon commence, and will require the active participation and support of the Institute's Board of Directors;

WHEREAS the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute is currently conducting a major fund raising campaign with the involvement of several Cree and non-native volunteers, which campaign has already raised several million dollars, and which campaign will be greatly assisted by the establishment of the Institute's formal Board of Directors;

WHEREAS it is therefore necessary to establish the formal Board of Directors of the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute in order to finalize the Institute's program planning, to manage the construction project, to collaborate with the fund raising campaign, and to oversee the long-term management of the Institute.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute, the James Bay Cultural Education Centre, Regional Council of Eeyou/Eenou Elders, Cultural Services administered by the Cree Regional Authority Traditional Pursuits Agency and the Cree School Board Language Program, shall be amalgamated as the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute, in order to establish a permanent Cree entity to preserve and develop Cree culture and language, and to facilitate the transfer of Cree culture, language and traditional knowledge from Cree Elders to youth, and to otherwise support the involvement of Elders in all aspects of Cree culture;

THAT the Board of Directors of the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute shall include the Cultural Coordinator and an Elder from each of the nine Cree communities;

THAT the leaders of the three bodies shall be mandated to accomplish the amalgamation immediately.

Proposed by: Norman Cheezo

Seconded by: Chief Edward Gilpin

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-09

SUBJECT: Firearms Legislation

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority, having met on 22-25 August 2000;

WHEREAS the Crees of Eeyou Istchee have lived as hunters, trappers, fisherman and gatherers as a traditional way of life and have always lived by a code of ethics by their customs and traditions as to safety and security while practicing their livelihood of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering;

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority, hereby express grave concern regarding certain provisions of Bill C-68, Firearms legislation, as it affects their livelihood as traditional trappers and hunters by the licensing, registration of firearms and ammunition and acquisition;

WHEREAS these requirements are in direct violation of the aboriginal and treaty rights which are protected under s. 35(1) of the Canadian Constitution, 1982;

WHEREAS these requirements will create hardship on the traditional trappers and hunters as regards to the deadline of January 1, 2001, for training and acquiring valid firearm licenses and firearm acquisition certificates (FAC);

WHEREAS the factor of traditional and customary lifestyles of the aboriginal peoples was not taken into consideration and seriously taken when the legislation was drafted and enacted;

WHEREAS the aboriginal peoples have adopted the use of firearms in their traditions and customs as an essential tool of subsistence;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members hereby request that amendments and exemptions be recommended to the Firearms Legislation;

THAT these amendments take into account the aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nation peoples as it relates and affects their livelihood of hunting and trapping for subsistence and have lived by their own code of ethics, traditions, customs and practices;

THAT a moratorium or extension be applied to these licensing, registration and acquisition requirements for First Nations Peoples until the legislation has been amended to comply with the constitutionally protected aboriginal and treaty rights;

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairman of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Trappers Associa-

tion, in conjunction and consultation with the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee, be and hereby mandated to do all things necessary to ensure that these concerns are put forth and submitted to the appropriate authorities and governments.

Proposed by: Abraham Rupert

Seconded by: Chief David Mast

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-10

SUBJECT: Funding for the Council of Chisayouch

WHEREAS the Eeyou/ Eenou Elders are the holders and protectors of Eeyou/ Eenou traditional knowledge and wisdom

WHEREAS the Elders as the holders and protectors of the said knowledge and wisdom can, should and must participate in a significant way as advisors at the regional and local levels, in all areas, and to Eeyou/ Eenou entities that deal with the well being of Eeyou/ Eenou in general;

WHEREAS the impacts of "modern" society have been negative and in some cases devastating to the culture, values, traditions, language and beliefs on Eeyouch/ Eenouch especially on the youth;

WHEREAS the "modern" methods and systems, such as the education, social services, justice, recreation etc. have not attained the desired success in dealing with the problems created within Eeyou/ Eenou society;

WHEREAS the Elders believe that the time has come for Eeyou/ Eenou to overcome their dependency on said methods and systems which do not work for many Cree youth in particular;

WHEREAS the Elders believe that the time has also come for them to assist in a meaningful way with resolving the said social problems by using and passing on their knowledge and wisdom as they determine and circumstances necessitate;

WHEREAS the Elders recognize the need to work collectively in the development of their goals and objectives to deal with the said problems;

WHEREAS the Elders also recognize the need to have the common basic understanding of Cree culture, values, tradition, language and beliefs so that the same maybe utilized and transmitted;

WHEREAS the financial resources available to the Eeyou/ Eenou has decreased and the requests and needs have increased exponentially;

WHEREAS the responsibility of the



different aspects of the culture and language have, without proper consultations with the Crees, including the Elders in their respective areas of expertise, been assigned to numerous agencies on a piecemeal basis contrary to the holistic approach of the Eeyou/ Eenou;

WHEREAS Eeyou/ Eenou must deal with the social problems on an urgent basis and the Elders have a significant role in the restoration of balance and harmony in Eeyou/ Eenou Society;

WHEREAS funding from the Board of Compensation is no longer sufficient to meet the requirements for the Elders to meet and plan properly their contribution to the restoration of harmony and balance;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Regional Authority make provisions in their annual operating budgets for the funding of the Eeyou/ Eenou Elders/ Youth Conferences and the Regional Council of Elders on an ongoing basis;

THAT the annual operating budget based on the needs as determined by the Elders shall be submitted on a yearly basis through the James Bay Cultural Education Centre to the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Regional Authority.

Proposed by: Norman Cheezo

Seconded by: Billy Stephen

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-11

SUBJECT: Income Security Program

WHEREAS the community of Whapmagoostui, a member of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, being situated in the northernmost part of Eeyou Istchee, is the only community that is not accessible by road and has the highest cost of living;

WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program from the community of Whapmagoostui are experiencing great difficulty meeting their basic needs and the costs associated with maintaining their beneficiary status on the program due to the high cost of living and isolation;

WHEREAS, the administration of the Income Security Program at present does not address the unique situation of the Whapmagoostui beneficiaries, for example, the rate per diem under the Program is the same for all nine Cree communities in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary that the community of Whapmagoostui be treated in a fair and equitable manner with respect to the delivery of programs in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS, the Whapmagoostui First Nation is requesting the support of the Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority to have the Quebec Government acknowledge the unique situation of the community of Whapmagoostui in the administration of the Income Security Program;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority hereby give support to the request of the community of Whapmagoostui to have its unique situation recognized with respect to the administration of Income Security Program by the Quebec Government;

THAT the government of Quebec be lobbied to reconsider and accept the original proposal by the Cree party on the Cree-Quebec Working Group on the Review and Revision of the Income Security Program that called for a \$74.00 daily allowance for the Income Security

Program beneficiaries who are in the "far" category;

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman be and it is hereby mandated to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Chief David Masty
Seconded by: Chief Edward Gilpin
Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-12

SUBJECT: Funding for the Cree Trappers' Association

WHEREAS the Cree Trappers' Association is the Cree entity that is responsible for representing the interests of the Cree Trappers of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the Cree Trappers' Association provides many important services to the Cree trappers of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS in order for the Cree Trappers' Association to fulfill its responsibilities to the Cree Trappers of Eeyou Istchee the Cree Trappers' Association requires a stable and sufficient source of funding;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority undertake a concerted effort to secure sufficient funding for the Cree Trappers' Association.

Adopted by: Chief Edward Gilpin
Seconded by: Gilbert Dick
Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-14

SUBJECT: Forced Relocation of Nemiscau Eenouch and Development of Nemiscau Eenouch Traditional Territory

WHEREAS, following notification in 1968 that the whole Nemiscau Eenouch traditional territory would be flooded and the only source of provisions and trading, namely the local Hudson's Bay Company store closed, the members of the Nemiscau Eenouch were forced to relocate from their traditional hunting territory and lands within the region surrounding Lake Nemiscau;

WHEREAS, as a result, the members of the community were displaced and scattered between the communities of Mistissini and Waskaganish, forced to leave behind their homes, to break their spiritual and cultural ties to the area and to sever their relationship to their traditional lands;

WHEREAS, despite such upheaval, the Nottaway Broadback Rupert River Complex did not proceed and the Government of Quebec and Hydro-Quebec instead developed the La Grand River

Complex;

WHEREAS the forced relocation caused much trauma and stress both to individuals and to the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, as a result of the conditions set out in the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement, the members of the Nemiscau Eenouch were required to re-establish themselves prematurely in a new community on the shores of Champion Lake before proper infrastructure and housing had been completed;

WHEREAS such premature relocation caused some unnecessary loss of life of certain community members as a result of unsanitary living conditions;

WHEREAS, furthermore, no proper funding arrangements for the relocation of the community of Champion Lake were established with the result that the community was forced to resort to the use of regular program funding and Cree monies in order to re-establish the community with appropriate infrastructure and services, thereby incurring additional delays and unnecessary health hazards;

WHEREAS the Nemiscau Eenouch have also committed substantial Cree monies to the construction and maintenance of the Nemaska access road, an obligation of the federal and/or provincial governments;

WHEREAS, in 1998, Hydro-Quebec proposed exploratory works to consider the potential of a revised EMI hydro-electric project;

WHEREAS the project as proposed will have serious impacts on the hunting, fishing and trapping activities of the Nemiscau Eenouch and will have a significant effect on the waters within the traditional territory of the Nemiscau Eenouch to which the members have never surrendered their aboriginal title and interest;

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, on 2 September 1999, the members of the Nemiscau Eenouch called for, inter alia, an independent inquiry into the events surrounding the forced relocation of their community and the establishment of the relocated community on Champion Lake, to be carried out during the current year;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority do hereby express their support for the holding of an independent inquiry, to be carried out immediately, into the forced relocation from the original Nemiscau community on Lake Nemiscau and the re-establishment of a new community at Champion

Lake;

THAT a moratorium on all further resource development affecting the traditional territory of the Nemiscau Eenouch be sought by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority and to continue in effect until such time as the Nemiscau Eenouch otherwise direct.

Proposed by: William Hester
Seconded by: Andrew Kawapit
Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-15

SUBJECT: Inclusion of Traditional Mistissini Territories in Forestry Negotiations

WHEREAS the members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini held their Local Annual General Assembly from August 14-18, 2000, and addressed the issue of including all Mistissini traditional territories into forestry negotiations with the governments of Quebec and Canada;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee have entered into formal negotiations with the Governments of Quebec and Canada regarding forestry related issues;

WHEREAS the elements for negotiations do not take into account traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping territories of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, more specifically in the area referred to as "Beyond the Height of Land";

WHEREAS the said traditional territory is not within the defined territories of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Mistissini has never ceded, or relinquished title or Aboriginal rights to those traditional territories;

WHEREAS the said traditional hunting, fishing and trapping territories have been negatively affected by commercial forestry operations and continue to be subjected to such operations;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and Deputy-Grand Chief/ Vice-Chairman are mandated to do all things necessary to include the said traditional territories into the forestry negotiations with the governments of Quebec and Canada;

Proposed by: Jimmy Trapper
Seconded by: Chief George Wapache
Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-16

SUBJECT: The Firearms Act

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and

the Cree Regional Authority having reviewed and discussed a status report on issues related to the federal gun control legislation;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has enacted Bill C-68, referred to as the Firearms Act, and undertaken the implementation of the Act within a specific time frame;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee with the participation of the Cree Trappers Association have made presentations, on behalf of the Cree Nation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs concerning the impact that the Firearms Act will have on the Cree way of life, and will be in violation aboriginal, treaty and Cree human rights and freedoms;

WHEREAS in such presentations the Government of Canada has been made aware that hunting, trapping and fishing are at the heart of Cree society and that all members of the Cree Nation depend on the land for their sustenance;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation has also informed the Government of Canada that firearms are a necessity to the Cree way of life and the continuance of traditional hunting and trapping;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation had entered into the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement with Canada and Quebec, an Agreement constitutionally protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;

WHEREAS the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement guarantees that the Cree traditional way of life based on hunting, trapping and fishing will be forever protected;

WHEREAS paragraph 24.3.12 of the Agreement concerns hunting, trapping and fishing and deals precisely with the issue of firearms control;

WHEREAS Chapter 24 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement addresses hunting, trapping and fishing rights and more particularly paragraph 24.3.18 provides that the right to harvest shall not be subject to the obtaining of permits, licenses, or other regulatory restrictions;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee holds that chapter 24 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement ensures that the Cree Nation's constitutionally protected right to possess and use firearms for harvesting be regulated by local aboriginal governments;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation has requested that the legislation clearly state

that it is not to be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from existing aboriginal or treaty rights;

WHEREAS as the Firearms Act requirement that all Cree gun users obtain licenses from the federal government in order to continue using firearms in the pursuit of traditional life on the land is in violation of Cree constitutionally protected harvesting rights;

WHEREAS the Firearms Act is also in violation of inherent aboriginal rights, contemplated by article 1 of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the Cree Nation notify the Government of Canada and Quebec of the hardships encountered in the implementation of the Act, and that the members of the Cree Nation are prepared to take all necessary measures to have Cree inherent, constitutional, and treaty rights respected, recognized and fully protected;

THAT the members of the Cree Nation petition the Minister of Justice to provide an immediate suspension of the implementation of the Firearms Act as it affects the Cree way of life, until such time an agreement between the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Federal government on all issues relating to the Firearms Act is reached;

THAT the members of the Cree Nation further call upon the Governments of Canada and Quebec to provide immediate access to human and financial resources to enable the Cree Nation to deal with all administrative and delivery issues related to the Firearms Act;

THAT the members of the Cree Nation do hereby mandate the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to do all things deemed useful and necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Andrew Kawapit

Seconded by: Mary Shanush

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-17

SUBJECT: Firearms Act Administrative Agreement

WHEREAS the federal government of Canada has enacted a Firearms Act wherein all firearms owners and users, including aboriginal people are required to register all firearms and to take a gun safety training course in order to apply for possession and acquisition licenses;

WHEREAS in the implementation of the Firearms Act, the Cree Nation is required to administer the Act in the Cree

territory within a strict timeframe;

WHEREAS the administration of the Firearms Act requires an Administrative Agreement to implement the Act and that government proposals have attempted to impose a definition of a "sustenance" hunter;

WHEREAS the government of Quebec has attempted to have such Administrative Agreements in each Cree community without meaningful consultations with the Cree Nation;

WHEREAS the governments of Quebec and Canada have not provided any resources to enable the Cree to properly administer the Act in the Cree territory;

WHEREAS a Special Meeting was convened on August 10 & 11, 2000 to review Cree interests and concerns related to the Firearms Act, and where a Report has been tabled to the members of the Cree Nation;

RESOLVED:

THAT to promote Cree unity the Cree Nation recommends that one Cree Regional Administrative Agreement be negotiated by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to ensure all Cree rights, aboriginal rights and treaty rights are fully taken into account in such agreement;

THAT in response to the administration of the Act, the members of the Cree Nation hereby serve notice to the governments that any imposed definition to "sustenance" hunters is unacceptable nor will the Cree Nation accept any infringement of Cree rights, aboriginal rights and treaty rights through administrative modalities of the Act;

THAT the members of the Cree Nation mandate the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to seek appropriate resolution to the critical and urgent concerns and interests of all Cree members in the administration of the Firearms Act;

THAT the Report on the Firearms Act as tabled at the Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority held in Mistissini on 22-25 of August, 2000 be considered part and partial of this resolution;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee are further mandated to do all things necessary and useful to give effect to the foregoing

Proposed by: Bobby Neacappo

Seconded by: John Tent

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-18

SUBJECT: Full-time Firearms Coordina-

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WHEREAS the federal government has enacted the Firearms Act which requires the Cree Nation to administer the Act in the Cree territory;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation is willing to work with such legislation, providing the governments make available all necessary human and financial resources to enable the Cree Nation to properly administer the Act, and providing all Cree rights, aboriginal and treaty rights are fully respected and recognized;

WHEREAS the members of the Cree Nation are cognizant of the many changes in Cree society, in particular, the need to promote safe community environments while respecting the necessity of guns and ammunition to the traditional Cree way of life;

WHEREAS the members of the Cree Nation recognize and respect the many efforts of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Trappers Association and other Cree entities;

WHEREAS the members of the Cree Nation recognize that issues relating to gun control require in addition to the immediate administrative needs, the need to establish adequate long term educational material and proper management on all matters related to the administration of the Act;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the Cree Nation affirm the importance of addressing issues beyond the federal government initiatives contained in the Firearms Act, such as all Cree concerns and interests on gun safety issues, training, application to gun permits and registration of all firearms, and specifically the need to promote safe Cree community environments;

THAT the members of the Cree Nation affirm the importance of promoting, enhancing and protecting the traditional Cree way of life;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority are mandated to seek all government resources to allow the Cree Nation to deliver adequate and appropriate support services related to the administration of the Act; including the placement of a full-time Cree Firearms Coordinator under the supervision of the Department of Traditional Pursuit of the Cree Regional Authority;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee are hereby mandated to do all things useful and necessary to give effect to the foregoing;

Proposed by: Joseph Pepabano

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-00
SUBJECT: Cree Governance

WHEREAS the Eeyou Nation of Eeyou Istchee has called for a process of defining the extent of Eeyou Istchee and the development and establishment of Eeyou government to be responsible for all areas of Eeyou governance in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS at previous General Assemblies the Eeyou Nation has expressed its full and total support to the said process;

WHEREAS it is the expressed will of the Eeyou Nation that the extent of Eeyou Istchee be defined without delay and that the said Eeyou Government be established through a Declaration of Eeyou Governance Principles and the enactment of an Eeyou Constitution;

WHEREAS it is the desire of the present General Assembly of the Eeyou Nation of Eeyou Istchee that the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec, the affected First Nations and the Canadian public be made aware of the Eeyou self-governance process;

WHEREAS the members of the Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority recognize the need for community consultations regarding the Eeyou Governance Process;

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposed community consultations regarding the Eeyou Governance Process begin without delay;

THAT a Declaration of Cree Eeyou Governance be made in the summer of 2001;

THAT the Grand Chief/ Chairman be and is hereby mandated to hold a press conference to formally announce the said process to the Canadian public;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority be directed to ensure that there are adequate financial resources to carry out the mandate regarding Eeyou self-governance and the definition of Eeyou Istchee;

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman be and are hereby mandate to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Oliver Visitor

Seconded by: Joseph Pepabano

Carried: 25 August 2000

WHEREAS the Cree People of Eeyou Istchee have always exercised self-determination and will further enhance this right through the consultation and involvement of all Cree People in the formation of a contemporary Cree Nation Government;

WHEREAS the experience at the local level is that the local autonomy and control is not enhanced through the use of on non-Cree lawyers and consultants at the regional and local entities Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority level;

WHEREAS the reason for this dependency in the past was the absence of experienced Cree professionals, a situation which has long since been remedied;

WHEREAS as a step toward autonomy in Eeyou Governance, it is a desire of the members of this Assembly that existing Cree human resources be used to their fullest capacity in areas of community development as well as in all other areas of Eeyou/Eenou Governance;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/Cree Regional Authority be and is hereby directed to use Cree professionals, be they at the local or regional level, in areas of community development as well as in other areas of Eeyou/Eenou Governance;

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman be and they are hereby mandated to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Abraham Rupert

Seconded by: Janie Pachanos

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-21
SUBJECT: Acknowledgement of the Whapmagoostui Women's Association and Approval of Request for Financial Support

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority have received a report from the Whapmagoostui's Women's Association asking for acknowledgement of the entity's existence and a request for financial support;

WHEREAS the Whapmagoostui's Women's Association is a non-profit organization which depends solely on local fund-raising efforts to sustain itself and

The People have spoken

Resolution No. 2000-25

Subject: Cree Fundamental Rights and the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

WHEREAS Eeyouch/Eenouch, the James Bay Cree People, is a People in its own right at natural law, international law and also as recognized and affirmed pursuant to Canadian constitutional law;
WHEREAS all peoples, including Eeyouch/Eenouch have the fundamental human right to self-determination;
WHEREAS this right of self-determination includes the rights of Eeyouch/Eenouch to have, benefit from and freely dispose of its own natural wealth and resources, as well as the right to never be deprived of its own means of subsistence;
WHEREAS the right of Eeyouch/Eenouch to self-determination was grossly violated in the 1970's through the construction, against the wishes of Eeyouch/Eenouch and without its consent, of the James Bay Hydroelectric Project, which resulted in the taking of the natural wealth and resources of the James Bay Cree People and the deprivation of its own means of subsistence;
WHEREAS under these conditions of extreme duress and extinguishment, and as an after-the-fact dispensation, the governments of Canada and Quebec, and Hydro-Quebec entered into the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement with the James Bay Cree People;
WHEREAS the JBNQA was intended, and states that it was intended, to address the broad range of social and economic development issues facing Eeyouch/Eenouch "as citizens of Canada resident in Quebec" affected by the Project, as well as to protect Cree societies, economies and the environment against the effects of future development in the Cree Traditional Territory;
WHEREAS these fundamentally important Cree JBNQA rights include government

obligations in respect of:
 Education and training;
 Employment;
 Health and Social Services;
 Community Infrastructure;
 Traditional Pursuits; and
 Environmental and Social Protection
WHEREAS these Cree JBNQA rights were in 1975, and still are, far-reaching and unique to the JBNQA;
WHEREAS these Cree JBNQA rights are of perpetual duration, and intended to benefit future generations of Cree;
WHEREAS many of these important JBNQA Cree rights remain unimplemented, or have been circumvented by the governments of Canada and Quebec since 1975, at the cost of Cree poverty, unemployment and homelessness;
WHEREAS under this continuing duress, both of these governments have sought to extinguish, alter, diminish, buy out, cap, terminate, or obtain Cree "consent" through complementary agreements or other means for surrender of these fundamental Cree JBNQA rights;
WHEREAS these governments are seeking in this way to limit and get rid of their ongoing obligations to future generations of Eeyouch/Eenouch;
WHEREAS the United Nations Human Rights Committee has declared that it is a violation of our fundamental human rights to extinguish or otherwise terminate the Treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples of Canada;

NOW THEREFORE THIS EYEOUCH/ EENOUCH ASSEMBLY:

DECLARES that the JBNQA and the rights it contains are the property of future generations of Eeyouch/Eenouch;

DECLARES that the diminishment or termination of the Cree JBNQA rights is contrary to Cree Law;

DECLARES that the JBNQA and the rights are a foundation for the ongoing development of Eeyouch/Eenouch in Eeyou Istchee, not a bargaining chip to be sold for benefits that all other Canadians take for granted;
DECLARES that the JBNQA and the rights it contains are not for sale or termination, whether in whole or in any part;

FORBIDS all Cree leaders, councils, entities, advisors or legal counsel from taking any steps that will diminish, alter, terminate, cap, or sell Cree JBNQA rights, whether in return for benefits or not;

MANDATES Cree leaders to work to implement the JBNQA without diminishing or giving up the perpetual rights it contains;
MANDATES the Grand Chief/Chairman to devise, and report back to the Council/ Board convened to discuss treaty rights, methods and approaches to ensure the constitutionalization within Eeyouch/Eenouch of our JBNQA Treaty Rights;
MANDATES the Grand Chief/Chairman to review all negotiations, litigation and other processes to ensure that they are consistent with this Resolution; and
MANDATES the Grand Chief/Chairman and the Grand Council to take urgent steps to inform all Cree leaders, councils, entities, advisors and legal counsel, students and the Cree People on an ongoing basis of this Resolution.

Proposed by: Bobby Neacappo
 Seconded by: Abraham Rupert
 Carried: 5 August 2000



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 GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREE (EYEOU ISTCHEE)
 GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EYEOU ISTCHEE)



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 CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
 ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRÉE

FIRST NATION ROOTS

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Hundreds of years of settlement by Europeans still has not managed to make people set aside or forget who the original inhabitants were here. It is impossible to forget who the inhabitants were here simply due to the historical reminders or evidence in the names of many Canadian and American cities. Do a little test for yourself by just thinking about how many Native names of rivers and lakes and places there are right in your own location.

First Nation people through history give names to places, rivers or lakes on the land with references that describe the place or something that happened there. This is in contrast to a European manner of naming places on the land after people. In my own experience as a Cree born and raised in Attawapiskat I have visited many places on the land on the shores of the great James Bay and most were named in my language.

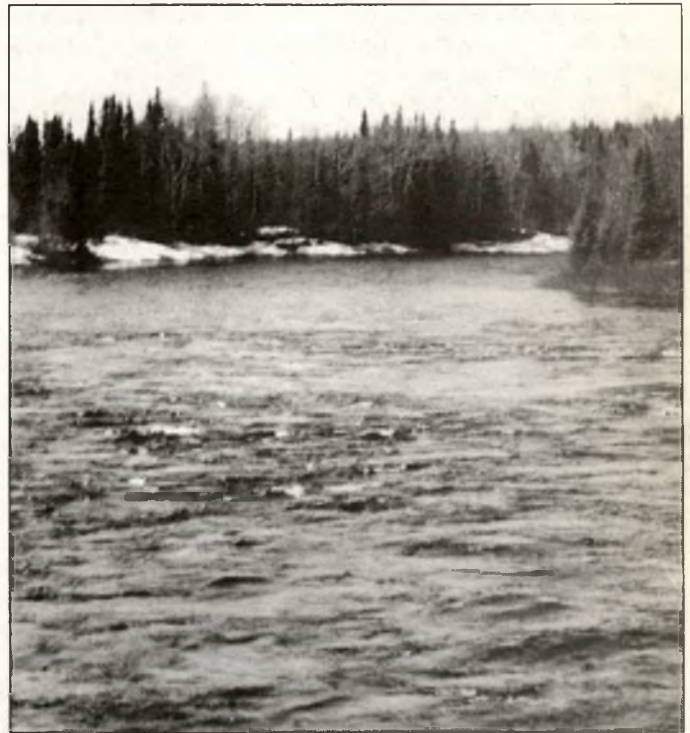
For instance, there is a very popular island that we Crees use for hunting, trapping and recreation. In the summer months Akamiski is visited by many families who stay for long durations. They are happy to leave town and go on a holiday where they revisit how my people lived for thousands of years. I guess you could compare people leaving Attawapiskat and going to Akamiski to people down south leaving their towns and cities and going to the cottage. Going to Akamiski is a kind of escape from the community and the modern life we have to live. Akamiski is named for its location (Land on the Other Side). A hundred years ago my people only had canoes in the warm seasons to travel the rivers and the great James Bay and in the winter transportation was by snowshoe or by dog sled. Akamiski was very far away in those days, hence the reference to land on the other side.

Attawapiskat was actually named also for its location, and the word comes from the Cree word Katawapiskak (River Between Rocks). If you head down the river by boat for a few hours you will come across the area that features high rock cliffs on either side of the river. Kashatchewan, a community about 100 kilometres south of Attawapiskat, is named for the flow of the river (Swift Current). Fort Albany across the Albany River from Kashatchewan is known in Cree as Peetabek (an area of many waterways that meet and flow into the Albany).

About 20 kilometres south of Attawapiskat there is a river called Akiko Sipi which refers to the great number of seals that have been seen on this water way. Akiko Sipi means (Seal River). Wapashiwi Sipi is a river 80 kilometres north of Attawapiskat. Wapashiwi Sipi (Swan River) is named for swan sightings and is a favourite hunting ground for geese and moose. Cheepawi Shipishish meaning (Ghost Creek) is a small artery of water north of Attawapiskat where my family has hunted in the past. Kashipieyak refers to a place about 40 kilometres north of Attawapiskat on the banks of the James Bay. Kashipieyak is a description of the forest where the branches of the pine trees start far up the trunk which is unique in this part of the country. About 160 kilometres north of Attawapiskat there is a place called Mooshawak which refers to the land at that spot. Mooshawak (Barren Land) is a description of the flat tundra this far north. This is one of the places where my people travel many hours to hunt caribou.

All along the James Bay coast, in the interior and on the islands, Cree families have their own traditional hunting, trapping and fishing grounds. My father Marius and my mother Susan as well as other Elders in Attawapiskat know these areas by name, but also the families that hunt, trap and fish there. These places are also remembered by my people for happenings such as a location where someone was born or passed away and was buried.

If you get a map of Ontario out and look on the coast of James Bay you will see some of the places I have noted. Then again, you can see right in your own back yard that Native names are prevalent. Just for an example consider Toronto, Ottawa, Mississauga, Cayuga, Winnipeg and of course let's not forget Canada.



FIRST CLASS OF MILLENNIUM GRADUATES 2000



**Willy J. Happyjack
Memorial School**

By Lance Blacksmithj- I didn't forget about you guys!!

This year's graduation was held at the All Chiefs Memorial Arena on August 11, 2000. There was a good show of support by the Waswanipi community. Proud parents, grand parents and family members all ended a beautiful ceremony to see their young people graduate. There were 17 graduates from Willy J. Happyjack Memorial School this year.

The ceremony started at 4 pm with presentations and speeches. After the ceremony the graduates and their families sat down to a turkey dinner. The dance was great, good music and the arena was decorated magnificently. The entrance used by the graduates was stunning, splashes of gold and blue. Not to mention the marriage proposal of Arnold Neeposh to Marelina Otter that night. What a millennium graduation.

The graduation ceremony was held in August this year so that more students could attend. Some of the graduates needed additional credits to graduate. They went to Waskaganish to summer school in order to complete their requirements. When principal, Jean Berube, was asked if the graduation next year would be in August. He replied that it would be up to the parents and students of next year's class.

Many of the graduates will be continuing their education at the Center d'etudes Collegiales a Chibougamou. This is a one year preparatory college that gives students a chance to ready themselves for further study in the south.

Congratulations to the Waswanipi Class of 2000!

On behalf of the community and the Nation, I would like to wish you all the best in your future plans and whatever you may choose to do even if it may be difficult at times I know you all have the courage and strength to achieve your goals. Everyone is so proud of you!!

Waswanipi class 2000 King and Queen, Irene Blacksmith and Arnold Neeposh. Lance- I am proud of my sister, Irene Blacksmith, for the awards she won Valedictorian.

Lance Blacksmith- How did you like Grad night?

Irene -I was surprised that my classmate proposed that night and I am happy for him to, He was very brave what he did in front of all those people.

What do you want to become?

First of all I am in preparation college to prepare myself for down south. But haven't decided what I want to master when I grow up.

Were you surprised to become Queen?

I didn't expected to be queen, but I was happy to be elected.

How did you feel to become Valedictorian?

I was very happy, I have worked hard to become Valedictorian and that was my goal.



Arnold

Lance- Were you surprised to become King?

Arnold-No, I wasn't surprised, I already felt like a king because what I did at prom night.

What do you like to become?

I am in preparation college right now and I haven't decide what to become yet. I'm sure something will come up soon.



Arnold and I have been good friends since we were kids. I was very happy and proud when Arnold proposed on that prom night. Arnold, I am getting an invitation to your wedding, right?? By the way, I am also proud that you were voted king of the class.

Grads

English; Irene Blacksmith, Arnold Neeposh, Melanie Neeposh, Leah Simard, Bobby Happyjack, Wayne Mathias, Eleanor Gull, Gabriel Cooper, Jesse Cooper, Nathaniel Saganash.

French; Wilmary Neeposh, Terry Kitchen, Oliver Icebound, Conrad Happyjack, Christina Gull, Monique Saganash, Elton John Cooper.

Lance- I'm sorry that in the first article I wrote I spelled two names incorrectly. Arnold's older brother's name is Sinclair Neeposh Jr. Arnold's fiancée's name is Marelina Otter.

MISTISSINI LOCAL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Will Nicholls

The first things you see through the doors to Mistissini's Annual General Assembly are the booths. The arena is surrounded with them. Mistco, the Grand Council forestry table, and Waasiyaa Development Group. Waasiyaa was one of the promoters in this years show. As an added inducement to hear their pitch they had free cold water and ice tea. Not that many people needed the encouragement as the booths were constantly being visited. It's a sign of the evolution of Cree politics. Entities, organization and people were actually lobbying the voters on projects or services they wanted to see happen.

Mistissini is also looking at being included in forestry discussions to talk about the traditional Cree land not within the defined limits of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. This twist to the forestry case is not a new one with the Mistissini community. The Grand Council of the Crees are being asked to include these lands in their discussions so they won't be negatively impacted until their status is clear. Mistissini says they still hold full aboriginal title to lands never ceded.

Women and children at risk were a concern for community members. A joint committee will be created to look women and children who are displaced from their homes because of alcohol/drugs and social problems occur. Another problem voters saw was that women in abusive relationships had to leave the community and possibly their children. Residents didn't think this was right and are looking for ways to change the system to favour women when they are the victims and are trying to

change their lives.

Cultural Activities got a boost when Jimmy Gunner's resolution was adopted and the members expressed their support.

Mistissini's Faith Bible Camp for kids should get \$30,000 a year if funds are available. The churches in Mistissini were also seen as having financial problems. The band is expected to look for funding sources for these secular organizations. Other churches wishing to move into the area may have a problem as the petition is specifically aimed at the three existing churches.



Boys fishing in the Mistissini gutway

Mistissini voters are very concerned about the amount of stress any chief has to deal with. Vacation time is a minimum of 30 days the Mistissini Chief to help alleviate this problem. May I recommend Osprey fishing camp? Not only do cell phones not work there but it is one of the most peaceful places I have been.

Two businesses have been granted "Superficies", which means they get granted a lot upon which they can build and locate their property. The two land grants were given to Smally Brien for his Arcade Amusement Center and to Waasiyaa Corporation to build and maintain a commercial complex. Both land grants were for a period of 25 years less a day.

Mistco Ventures Inc. will be the expected recipient of a half a million-dollar loan from Eeyou Compane. The loan will be repaid over a period of five years with the principal and interest charged directly to the Mistissini shares of income available for distribution in the Economic Assistance Fund or Community Fund.

Mistissini voters have requested that the growing backlog of housing maintenance work be brought up to date. A study to look at indoor environmental conditions will be done. People feel that poor air quality, humidity and other environmental concerns should be addressed. The study will be in collaboration with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services.

Housing was a concern as Mistissini is 421 houses short of what is immediately needed for residents.

All in all a fun AGA to attend and listen to. If only I had won the BBQ...



Boys holding bear paws in the smokehouse

Wabun Tribal Council's 10th Anniversary celebrations

Wabun Tribal Council's 10th Anniversary celebrations, which featured an address by newly elected Grand Chief Stan Beardy of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, took place here August 24 and 25. The two day celebration was held around a Chief's Meeting on August 24 and the Wabun Tribal Council Annual General Meeting on August 25.

Five of the Wabun community Chiefs were present including: Chief Joyce Luke, Mattagami First Nation; Chief Andrew Neshawabin, Brunswick House First Nation; Chief Paul McKenzie, Wahgoshig First Nation; Chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan First Nation and Chief Roy Meaniss, Beaverhouse First Nation. Chief Anita Memegos Stephens was unable to attend the event.

Elder Marie Boucher of Matachewan FN opened and closed the celebrations and the featured drum group was Indian Summer from North Bay, Stephen Pelletier, Cheyenne Kitchikeg, Harvey Bell, Lester Mianskum and Craig Trudeau.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council, who also acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the celebration, called the event a major milestone in the development of the Tribal Council.

"I am very proud and happy to be able to share our success over the past 10 years with all of our Chiefs, Grand Chief Stan Beardy, the Wabun staff and all of our community members. We are here today as a result of the hard work and commitment of our Wabun Chiefs and community members. It has not always been easy but we have persevered and met the challenges over the years and now I believe we can all look forward to a bright future together," said Batise.

Many events were run over the two days of celebration including a bingo, recreational fishing, a bonfire, games and activities for children, a barbecue and feast.

"I am here to congratulate you on your 10th anniversary and I am very impressed with the past two days you have organized here in Matachewan, everything went like clockwork. Many thanks for the efforts of the Wabun Chiefs, Shawn Batise, the Wabun staff and the Matachewan community members for making me feel at home," said Grand Chief Beardy.

Two of the original founding members of Wabun Tribal Council, past Chief of Matachewan, Bernie Batise, who now lives in Callander and past chief of Wahgoshig, Clifford Diamond were present and were honoured for their contributions. Also mentioned but not present were Lindy Louttit past Chief of Wahgoshig, the late Joseph Saunders past Chief of Brunswick House and Joanne Nakogee, past Chief of Chapleau Ojibwe.

"When we created Wabun Tribal Council we were told that it was not possible but we went ahead and organized ourselves and soon we were recognized. As

First Nation communities accessible by road we were not getting much assistance from the government but with the creation of Wabun Tribal Council and the hard work of the Wabun staff much has been accomplished over the years and millions of dollars have flowed through to our communities," explained Bernie Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council was formed or incorporated in October, 1989 and started operations in Timmins in April 1990. The Council was formed under the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) devolution policy to coordinate and deliver services devolved from INAC to First Nation communities at the local level. The main objectives of Wabun include: promotion of self-reliance, provision for its members' health, education, social and economic development needs and the enhancement of the unique cultures, traditions and language of its members.

The Wabun Tribal Council is incorporated under the province of Ontario's Business Corporations Act, as a non-share capital corporation (non profit) and administers funds and performs services as contracted with various funding bodies, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Employment and Immigration Canada, National Health and Welfare Canada, the Provincial Ministry of Health and others.

In 1993, Wabun was the first Tribal Council in Ontario to sign a health transfer agreement with National Health and Welfare Canada to take over the control of health programming from the federal government. In 1996, Wabun assumed responsibility for long term care programming in First Nation communities from the Ministry of Health of the Provincial government of Ontario. During the same year Wabun also set up and financed a development organization without outside grants. In 1998, Wabun purchased a commercial office building in Timmins, Ontario for its headquarters through sound financial management with no grant assistance.

Alexandra Macqueen



Macqueen

Communications

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the services it provides to the community;

WHEREAS the local demand for the Whapmagoostui Women's Association's services is rapidly increasing in accordance with the needs of the members of the Whapmagoostui First Nation and additional financial resources are needed to meet these needs;

WHEREAS the CRA Board of Compensation and other organizations presently provide funding for the services of non-profit organizations such as the Cree Trapper's Association and other Cree entities;

RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority hereby acknowledge receipt of the report of the Whapmagoostui Women's Association and acknowledge the existence of the Whapmagoostui Women's Association;

THAT the members of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority support the request for financial assistance on an ongoing basis of the Whapmagoostui Women's associations as well as other Cree Women's association;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority are hereby directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Rose Lynn Rabbitskin
Seconded by: Losty Mamianskum
Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-22

SUBJECT: Cree Nation Confederacy Gathering

WHEREAS there have been gatherings of the Cree Nations Confederacy of Canada in various Cree traditional territories in Canada;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee has been requested to host the next gathering in the year 2001;

WHEREAS the Cree Nations Confederacy has requested that the holding of this gathering be held in the community of Chisasibi;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Chisasibi has considered the request and have agreed that the community of Chisasibi be the site of the 2001 Cree Nations Gathering;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority Annual Assembly hereby supports and agrees that the Cree Nation of Eeyou

Istchee through the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority host the next gathering of the Cree Nations Confederacy Gathering for the year 2001;

THAT the holding of this gathering be held in Chisasibi as agreed to by the community of Chisasibi;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority with the concerned Cree communities be and are hereby mandated to put in place the appropriate budgets and organizational mechanisms to realize this historical event to be held in Eeyou Istchee.

Proposed by: Oliver Visitor

Seconded by: Chief David Masty

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-23

SUBJECT: Washaw Sibi

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority recognize and acknowledge the historical, cultural and family bonds between the Washaw Sibi Eeyou and the Cree Nation, more particularly the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Washaw Sibi Eeyou Association is hereby recognized as the official voice of the Washaw Sibi Eeyou with official observer status at all meetings of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority;

THAT the members also hereby express their support of the efforts of the Washaw Sibi Eeyou Association to obtain full measure of the rights and benefits under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement to which its members may be entitled;

THAT all Cree entities such as the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree Regional Authority, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, the Cree School Board and the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation be and hereby mandated to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Chief David Masty

Seconded by: William Hester

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-24

SUBJECT: Political and financial assistance to the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and of Mistissini in quest for final land re-allocation and negotiations

of relevant agreement to give effect of the land re-allocation from Mistissini Cree First Nation land base for the creation of land base for the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree First Nation.

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou received by virtue of a resolution of the Council of the Cree Regional Authority and Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec), hereafter referred to as "Council/Board", giving recognition to the representatives from the Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou as members to the Council/Board and in recognition of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou as a distinct group within the Cree Nation and;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) on March 16, 1989 Special General Assembly of the Cree Nation supported and approved the institution of legal proceedings with and in support of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou against the governments of Canada and of Quebec asserting aboriginal title and jurisdiction of specific land for the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and confirming that the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree First Nation was excluded from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and claiming damages and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and the Government of Quebec signed the Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement on September 06, 1989 to provide for an equitable and fair settlement on certain of the legitimate and long standing grievances of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and agreed to construct a village at Lake Opemisca and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Mistissini and the Government of Quebec signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 6, 1989 to provide the re-allocation of category I and II lands from the land base of the Cree First Nation of Mistissini for the benefit of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and agreed to take all necessary steps to authorize the above land re-allocation subject to receiving a fair and equitable arrangement for matters contained in the memorandum of Understanding of December 6, 1989 and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and Canada signed the Ouje-Bougoumou/Canada Agreement on May 22, 1992 to provide federal contribution to the construction of the village at Lake Opemisca, the creation of

the Ouje-Bougoumou Socio-Economic Fund, the Operations and Maintenance Funding, the commitment to undertake the necessary measures for the amendments of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement and the Cree Naskapi (of Quebec) Act to accommodate the recognition of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and to initiate measures to treat the Cree First nation of Ouje-Bougoumou as equal to other Cree First nations and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and the Government of Quebec signed an agreement for the implementation of the outstanding issues related to the Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement signed on September 6, 1989 to provide specific agreement on the installation of a telephone system, to provide safety on road no. 209, the transfer of Operations Fund to the Ouje-Bougoumou Socio-Economic Development fund and the institution of the Regional Ventures Fund and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou filed a legal proceedings on December 22, 1993 against the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada claiming unextinguished Indian title and existing aboriginal rights and personal usufructuary rights over, in, under and to all lands and natural resources situated in the land claimed by the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou and claiming special and general damages and;

WHEREAS by virtue of Council/Board resolution no. 1995-17 an amount of \$527,898.00 incurred by the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) in support of the negotiations and work for the benefit of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou was written off from the financial statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) for accounting purposes for the period ending March 31, 1995 and that this amount was included to the financial statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) under Cumulative Net Expenditures subject to Claims and Potential Reimbursement and;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)/ Cree Regional Authority has had given political and financial support, with Cree funds, to other Cree First Nations, from time to time, on specific matters of interest pertaining to their well-being, protection of rights and to achieve fair and equitable agreements/ settlements and;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) had granted this political and financial support, with Cree funds, to other First Nations of Canada,

more specifically the Lubicon Cree First Nation and of Bear Island First Nation and;

WHEREAS the Cree First Nation of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou desires and requests the political and financial support of the Cree Nation of Quebec as represented by the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)/ Cree Regional Authority in their quest for the re-allocation of lands from the land base of the Cree First Nation of Mistissini for the benefit of the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou creation of a land base;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the will of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee hereby supports the Cree First Nations of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou in their quest for fair and equitable agreements/ settlements on matters of interest related to land re-allocation from the land base of the Cree First nation of Mistissini for the benefit in the creation of a land base for the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou;

THAT the will of the Cree First Nation of Eeyou Istchee hereby gives its political and financial support to the Cree First Nations of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou in their work and negotiations for securing the fair and equitable agreements/ settlements on matters of interest pertaining to the re-allocation of lands;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees (of Eeyou Istchee) is hereby mandated to give priority to the work and negotiations of the Cree First Nations of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou to conclude the appropriate agreements/ settlements related to the re-allocation of lands;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees (of Eeyou Istchee) is hereby mandated to make all necessary arrangements with the Cree First Nations of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou for the political and financial support and to do all things necessary to give effect of the support granted;

THAT the following goals are determined by the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee as necessary to be completed to the satisfaction and agreement of the Cree first Nations of Mississippi and of Ouje-Bougoumou and is included in the political and financial support given by the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee:

1. The negotiations of a fair and equitable agreement for the Cree nation of Mistissini related to the Memorandum of Understanding of December 6, 1989.

2. The negotiations of fair and settlement for the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou related to the out-

standing issues from the Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement and the Ouje-Bougoumou/Canada Agreement and the Ouje-Bougoumou-Quebec Agreement related to specific matters.

3. The negotiations of final land selection and re-allocation of lands from the land base of the Cree First Nation of Mistissini for the benefit of creating a land base for the Cree First Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou.

THAT the Grand Chief/ Chairman be and is hereby mandate to give full political support to the Cree First Nations of Mistissini and of Ouje-Bougoumou in their work and negotiations and to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Sam Tapiatuk

Seconded by: Gilbert Dick

Carried: 25 August 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-26

SUBJECT: Collective Effort on the Protection of Intellectual Rights and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

WHEREAS in recent years there has been an increase in research activities in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the research activity has had the effect of enhancing the further development and exploitation of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the research activity in Eeyou Istchee is not conducted with the knowledge, permission or participation of the Cree Nation and Cree First nations of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the increase in research activity in Eeyou Istchee is disrupting traditional activities;

RESOLVED:

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Regional Authority coordinate and organize a collective effort of the Cree First Nation of Eeyou Istchee to address this problem;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority in conjunction with the collective effort of the Cree First Nations of Eeyou Istchee develop policies, protocol agreements with research institutions and develop training opportunities for Eeyou/ Eenu;

THAT the Grand Chief/Chairman and the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman be and hereby mandated to do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Gilbert Dick

Seconded by: Eric R. House

Carried: 25 August 2000

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100 - Births

I just want to say "Congratulations" to my cousin Lott Moses and her girlfriend Roxanna Blackned on the safe arrival of their first baby in Val d'Or on Aug. 8 '00. Baby girl name Karissa Kyra Lianne Amber. I wish you both all the best and may this child bring you both a lot of happiness. Take really good care of your baby girl. Kisses to your little one. Again, congratulations. Form someone in Waskaganish. By the way, happy belated birthday Roxanna on June 6.

On May 5, 2000 at 12:23 am a premature baby was born. his name is Myles Curtis Weistchee. He was only 1 lb. and 14 oz. at 26 weeks of pregnancy. He was born at Centre-Hospitalier, Rouyn-Noranda, Qc. It was a miracle from God. A little baby brother for Alex and Bénita. Proud parents Henry and Bernice Weistchee (Wemindji)

101 - Birthdays

Happy 10th birthday goes to Elton John Salt on August 16, 2000. You have grown so fast. We love you. Don't eat your cake too much, you might get bigger. Happy birthday and many more to come. Don't forget, we love you so much. With Love, your grandparents William and Janie Salt from Waskaganish.

Happy Birthday to a sweet big boy, his name is Elton John Salt. Celebrating his 10th birthday on August 16, 2000. Hope you have fun on your special day. With lots of love, hugs and kisses, Freddie, Yannick, Frederick and Geraldine Wapachee from Nemaska.

I would like to say to my wife Yannick Wapachee from Nemaska, happy 27 birthday, many more years to come, very sorry for late notice I didn't forget your birthday. I was too busy (joke). I hope you had a beautiful day on your special day, celebrating, not meaning by drinking alcohol which you don't drink I hope. I love you so much for the person you are, your caring, understanding, faithfulness. With all my love, your loving husband Freddie Wapachee in Nemaska. XOXO

I would like to wish a very happy b-day to a very special someone in my life, my husband Abraham Bosum, on Sept. 14, 2000. I just wanted to let you know that I'm so glad you're mine and that I love you sooo much. I will always

remember the good times we've shared together. And I will cherish them forever. You've been there when I was on my most difficult time in my life and I want to say thank you. I will always love you and I will always be there for you. You're the best. So just relax and enjoy your special day. You deserve it! Sending all of my love 4U from your wife A.S.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our cousins Roberta Stephen on September 7th and to Chantale Stephen on September 16th, and also to our BIG uncle Howard Shash on September 22, Happy 32nd Birthday! "Howie." And to our aunt, "Sarah Lee the cake" on September 25, 2000. Happy 30th Birthday Sara! with lots of love, from: Alex, Bénita, and Myles

On September 5th, 1992, God blessed us with a little girl. She was only 2 lbs, 2 oz. and her name is Bénita Bella Weistchee. She will be celebrating her 8th birthday on September 5, 2000. Happy Birthday Bénita and many more to come. With lots of love, Mom and Dad, Bernice and Henry Weistchee

Happy 11th birthday to Alexander Weistchee on September 17, 2000 and many more birthdays to come. with lots of love, Mom and Dad (Bernice and Henry)

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to a very special person in our lives. Her name is Brittany Gull. She celebrated her 7th birthday on August 21. We just wanted to let you know how much we love you deep in our hearts. You are so special to us. Once again, "Happy Birthday." Many more to come. Love always, Mommy and Daddy

Happy 4th Birthday to my nephew Clayton Gunner Chakapash who will be celebrating his birthday on September 11, 2000. Four years ago, when you came into this world, you were so small and precious. Hope you have a nice one when you blow out your four candles. All my love, your aunt Melanie. P.S. Be a good boy in school! I LOVE YOU!

Birthday wishes and kisses going out to Clayton Moses Lyle on September 11, 2000. Happy Birthday and many more to come. We love you and miss you. From: Grandparents, François and Sophie and your uncles, Marvin and Delphis. Once again, Happy Birthday!

Just remembered, two guys from Waskaganish already celebrated their birthdays. And we would like to take this time to wish them a happy belated birthday. First to Caleb John Cheezo who celebrated his birthday in July. And to Frankie Whiskeychan who celebrated his birthday on Aug. 15. Hope you guys didn't party too much especially you Caleb. Happy belated 16th birthday boys. You both are getting old now maybe it's time for you guys to act like a real man ihh! No more stealing ski-doo's (Just kidding) Happy belated birthday to both of youze. From: two buddies in Wask.

Happy 21st Birthday to the one and only Claude Coon on September 2nd. May your days be filled with joy and happiness as you have in my life! Also wanted to say Thank you so much for being there when I needed a shoulder to cry on or to make my day better. You were always there for me through good and especially through rough times. Thank you for loving me, caring for me. There will always be a place for you in my heart don't forget that. I will be there 4-you if you need to talk. From: Theresa Bosum

I want to wish a "Happy Birthday" to someone on Sept. 4. She knows who she is. She is leaving right on her birthday to North Bay to attend Canadore College this year. We really haven't had the time to talk about anything, like we used to. But I want to let her know that she is still in my thoughts now and then. You are still my friend and will always be. And I will miss you a lot. Have a great time and a successful year studying. You will make it all the way. I know you. I will remember you always and I will miss you my friend! From WB in Ojaya...

I would like to wish my nephew/God child, Simon Joseph William Natawapineskum-Jonah a very happy 1st Birthday on August 31st. Before you came into our lives, our family felt that something was missing, all we needed was you to lighten up our lives with a shower of love. You will always be my little teddy bear. Hope you have a wonderful day! Love, Auntie Alexandra (Wemindji) P.S. Chow down on your 1st birthday cake!

Sending a big birthday wish to our little boy Theoren who will be celebrating his 1st birthday on September 9th. We

can't wait to blow out your first candle boy! Enjoy all your fun and surprises. We love you so much from the bottom of our hearts. Hugs and kisses, Mommy, Daddy and your big sis, Anna-May

102 - Weddings

I would like to congratulate my niece Jessie Swallow and fiancé John Moses on their upcoming wedding on Friday September 8, 2000. With lots of love, your aunt Bernice, Henry, Alex, Bénita and Myles Weistchee

103- Anniversaries

Our parents you're so important to us without you both, nothing would matter, you showed us you guys care by your concerned words, without you both, life is not worth living for, because each day, we see both your faces saying carry on and that keep us going to face another day with you guys. We know we can rely on you both when we need a helping hand. You both give us hope and strength for better tomorrow, you two are so important to us there aren't any other parents in the world could ever take your place in our lives and hearts. And we want you both to know that we love you so much. Happy 29th anniversary to the most important people in our lives, our parents, Janeis and William Salt on July 3rd. With love always your daughters, Marlene Moses, Susie Wapachee, Yannick Wapachee, Angela Sam, Hannah Jane Salt, Stephanie Salt and your son Joshua Guy Salt, and your grandchildren. TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

Happy 4th anniversary to our parents, Freddie and Yannick Wapachee on July 20, 2000. We want to thank you for all your care and loving. And you have done everything for us and showing that you love us, taking care of us. We want to tell you both that we love you so much. We want to wish you both happiness you could possibly have. take care of each other, with love, your children, Elton John, Frederick and Geraldine Wapachee. XOXOXO.

I would like to say happy anniversary to my husband Freddie Wapachee on July 20, 2000. I love you so much, I love you for the man you are and for what you have done for me. We've shared each precious memory. I love you for your thoughtfulness and everything you've done to make our

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life together such a happy, loving one. I love you for your faith in me, your understanding heart for showing that you miss me and loving, caring, showing me that you love me. Anytime we've been apart for every special pland and dream you've helped me to fulfill, I love you. With love all my heart and I know I will always love you. Love your loving wife, Yannick Wapachee from Nemaska XOXOXOXO.

Soon it will be your 10th anniversary. NO it's already your anniversary, we're in the month of August, sorry for late notice, we almost forgot.

Sister, it seems like yesterday when I saw you in your wedding dress. How beautiful you looked that day, standing by your man and it's that love that keeps a man and his wife together in good times and bad times and as your sister, friend, I will always be there for you. I wish you both all the more happiness to come. 10 years ago on August 3, Marlene and Bruce Moses became one. Happy anniversary, Sis, and my brother in law. With love, your sister Susie and Louie Wapachee, Claudette, Priscilla and Curtis Wapachee from Waskaganish.

I would like to wish a happy 46th wedding anniversary to my parents Clifford and Minnie Shash and to my uncle Lloyd and Annie Shash on Friday September 8, 2000. With love, Bernice, Henry, Alex, Bénita and Myles Weistchee

105 - Obituaries

In loving memory of our daughter, Freda Joyce Wapachee, who passed away on October 29, 1998. It's been almost two years since you departed from this world. We are still thinking about you and we have memories of you our little angel of mine, up there above the clouds lives a little one. Who I never got to meet. My arms will not get to hold you, your face. We will not forget. My heart is broken because you were special from the start. But you had life those few short weeks and months in us. You were a part of me that only a mother and father can understand even if I couldn't feel your movement. I had such a beautiful feeling knowing you were there those days, will always be remembered and cherished and now we move forward as painful as it is knowing that. We gave life to an angel who

will always be up there looking down on us, waiting for us. We love you sweet angel, Freda Joyce Wapachee, she was only a 6 month old baby and her birthday was on April 9, 1998. Our love for you will remian with us, with love always your parents Freddie and Yannick, Elton John, Frederick, Geraldine Freda Wapapchee XOXOXO In Loving Memory Daisy Capassist Flageole. There was no time to say good bye that day you went away/ You left this world a year ago, we still think of you in silence / We often speak your name but always have memories of you / In sadness in our silence, tears still flow for what it meant to / lose a sister, you were someone special / Someone so good, kind, you were mother and grandmother / And sister you were to us, you will not be forgotten / Even though you are no longer with us, but in our hearts / Our thoughts and our love are always with us / Especially this day, never forgotten / Missed by your sisters, brothers, Mom, Clint, Joel, Mikai / and Luc, also your in laws, Joseph & Louise Flageole / Especially your grandchildren Love always, your sister **Monica Capassisit Tanoush**

300 - Personals

I would like to say Hello to my cousin, Julie-Ann Cooper in Waswanipi. Also to my good friend, Sheryl-Ann O. So how's life treating you girls? As for me, I really miss you both. But life is good. Maybe we could have a Bar-B-Q sometime, before it gets too cold that is! In friendship always, Agnes Shecapio (Ojay)

A big hello to my nephew Eli Moore in Hull, whom I miss and love so much. Just a reminder, if you ever need any-

thing for school, just give me a call, ok? Your dad knows my number. Also, to wish you the best of luck in school. Love ya always, From your nunt, Agnes Shecapio. XOXOXOXO...

This goes out to the girl I'm hoping to see and hoping to get to know soon, I hope. Her name is Roxanne Pelchat from Chisasibi. I just wanted to know how are you doing and all. Hoping you can ask me that in person. So, I just wanted to let you know I'm still thinking of you and always will until then! From: your secret admirer....

Mario Wayne Whiskeychan. I love you so much. Waskaganish Qc.

A big hello to Owen, Jean-Claude, Kathy and Eddy Cooper. Also to Elston Lee sh form Oujebougoumou. We miss you Elston. From: cousins all the way from Waskaganish. Hi, Grandma.

Good luck to Sabrina Jolly who will be attending college on Sept. 00. We'll miss you very much. Take Care!

Just want to say hi, hello, to my mom, Catherine Jolly. Mom, I want you to know that I really miss you very much. And I can't wait to see you again. I hope I'll come down again soon. Also want to say a big hello to my sister Lorraine. I always remember the good time we had together in Ojay. I hope we'll have fun again someday. Missin' you both a lot. Hope I'll see you both soon. Oh mom, I'm very sorry of what happened in Amos. I'll pay you guys someday, I promise. I owe you, mother I love you both very much. From: your daughter / sister all the way back home. xoxox

I would like to say a few words to my boyfriend. Well, first of all, I want you to know I love you so very much, man!

That time when we were apart for at least a month and a half, I always thought about you. And I was very happy that I saw you in Val d'Or, I wanted to cry, I wanted to hug you, and I wanted to kiss you. I was very happy that I spent time with you in the motel. When the time came for you to go, it was the most hard thing for me to accept. I didn't want to let go of you, but you went back home to your family. A few days later, I came home too. I wanted to go home just because to see you. I really missed you very much. I'm glad we're back together again. And I don't want us to be apart again. I love you very much. And thank-you for always being there for me when I needed you the most. You will always have and hold a very special place in my heart just for you, my love. A place no one else has ever reached. A place where only you have touched just by smiling at me or the way you hold my hand and by being yourself when we are alone. I enjoy every moment I spend with you. You're the most important person in my life, I love you with every beat of my heart. All my love, your girlfriend from Waskaganish. xoxox (I love you, Mario Wayne.)

Waneek Horn Miller is going to the Olympics in Sydney Austrialia. She is a proud Mohawk Nation citizen. Let us wish her and her team well. She is co-captain of the Canadian Women's Water Polo Team. Send her greetings care of me and I will forward them on to her. By the way, she is my daughter. Kahn-Tineta Horn, President Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with the Native Peoples kahntineta@hotmail.com



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